

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 821
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr. was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr. pastored the Central Mennonite Brethren Church and the Maranatha Mennonite Brethren Church for many years, serving as a Christian example of love and faith; and

WHEREAS, born on September 18, 1941, Ellis Jones graduated from Fayette Ware Training High School, and he attended Brewster's Theological Seminary as well as other Bible colleges; he received his Certificate of License to Function in Ministry in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Jones served in the United States Army for two years to protect the principles and freedoms we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, a diligent worker, Reverend Ellis Jones received his Certificate of Completion of the Georgia Pacific Corrugated Training Seminar in 1991, and he worked for Georgia Pacific for many years, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a peerless community servant, Reverend Ellis Jones received numerous awards and certificates for his community service and philanthropic work, including the Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious Service to the Citizens of Shelby County (1999), the Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious Service (1999), Certificate of Recognition for the Neighborhood Festival in Appreciation of Outstanding Contribution to the Community (2001),

Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to the Community (2001), Certificate of Recognition for Appreciation and Outstanding Contribution to the Community (2002), and Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition of Outstanding Service in the Best Interest and Highest Traditions of the State of Tennessee (2004 and 2005); and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones was appointed Chaplin of the Day by the Memphis City Council in 1999, Legislative Advisor to Senator Roscoe Dixon in 2001, and Colonel Aide De Camp by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2003; he also graduated from the Memphis Citizens Police Department in 2001, and he helped organize the Whitehaven Senior Citizens Breakfast Club; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Reverend Ellis Jones always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones enjoyed the loving companionship of his first wife, Eva Beard Jones, before her untimely passing, and their marriage was blessed with five children; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of his first wife, Reverend Ellis Jones married Bettie J. Jones, and their marriage was also blessed with five children; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mattie Jones; his first wife, Eva Beard Jones; three brothers; two sisters; and one grandson, Ronnie R. Wilson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr. is survived by his loving wife, Bettie J. Jones; ten children, Ellis Jones, Jr., Edgar R. Jones and wife Camilla, Phoronda A. Jones-Buckley and husband Patrick, Veronica A. Jones, McQuita J. Jones, Emmitt L. Wilson, III and wife Yvette, Ronnie R. Wilson, Sr., Sheila Yvette Wilson, Shinnie S. Rice and spouse Adrian, and Sharon A. Green and husband Dedan; special niece, Charondas S. Beard; eighteen grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three sisters, Parthena Shaw, Katherine Thompson and husband Edward, and Hanna Billingsly and husband George; two special nephews, Reverend James Jones, Jr. and Darren Jones; two aunts; seven sisters-in-law; five brothers-in-law; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jones leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the Reverend Ellis Jones, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Reverend Jones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.